VLPTS

Nayagarh	Commissioned during 1996-97
Thoumal Rampur (TSP)	- do -
Bada Barbil (TSP)	- do -
Nagchi	Commissioned during 1997-98
Aud	Installation completed during 1997-98
Kotampur (TSP)	- do -
Koksara (TSP)	- do -
Chitiakonde (TSP)	- do -
Paikamal	Under implementation
Sukinda	- do -
Udaigiri	- do -
Simlipalgarh (TSP)	- do -
Jayapatna (TSP)	- do -
Lan Jigarh (TSP)	- do -
Kashipur (TSP)	- do -
Machhkund (TSP)	- do -

Procedure to start Power Projects

749. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any simplified procedure to start Power Projects by way of giving more power to States and decentralising the cumbersome procedures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In exercise of the Power conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (54 of 1948), the Central Government has fixed the limit of Rs. 1000 crores to a scheme for a generating station prepared by a Generating Company and selected through a process of competitive bidding by the competent Government or Governments, as the sum of capital expenditure exceeding which the scheme shall be submitted to Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence. Through this notification, Power has been given to the State to clear power projects costing upto Rs. 1000 crores which have been selected through the process of international competitive biddings.

Besides the above, some of the steps taken by the Government for decentralising the procedure for clearance of private power projects, *inter-alia*, include;

- minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by according automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories.
- delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments.

Purchase of Power

750. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally agreed to purchase power from Pakistan and exchange of power between West Bengal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the rate and quantum of power likely to be purchased from Pakistan annually;

(c) the number of years for which the agreement for the purchase of power has been reached;

(d) whether the offer for sale of power was made by Pakistan through international financial institutions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the arrangements of power transmission from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Pakistan High Commission, in May 1997 conveyed to the Government of India that the Government of Pakistan is considering a proposal to export electricity to India and sought technical details on the grid system in India. In response, Government of India conveyed its interest in the proposal in June, 1997 and suggested that technical, commercial and administrative issues should first be examined by a team of experts from India and Pakistan. The Government of India had offered to send a team of experts to Pakistan. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Government of Pakistan may depute an expert team to India. There has been no further progress in the matter.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Power

751. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power plants functioning in Gujarat at present;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated to enhance the capacity of power generation in the State during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) As on 31.03.1998, 19 power projects including 3 in the Central Sector were functioning in the Gujarat State.

(b) and (c) Details of power projects targetted for commissioning in the Gujarat State during the current financial year are given below :-

S.No.	Name of the project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Kadana H.E. Extn.	60
2.	Wanakbori TPS U-7	210
3.	Paguthan ST U-1	250
4.	Surat Lignite U-1	125

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchange in Assam

752. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the District Headquarters and Sub-divisional Headquarters of Assam are having electronic telephone exchange with STD facility;

(b) if not, the number of places not having this facility alongwith reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide electronic exchanges with STD facility there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir, All the 23 District Headquarters and 40 Subdivisional Headquarters in Assam are having electronic telephone exchanges with STD facility.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Demand and Supply of Power in A.P.

753. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh will get 425 MW of power from Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was signed between Talcher Super Thermal Power Project Stage II of the National Thermal Power Corporation and the State Electricity Board;

(c) the extent to which it will reduce the demand of the State Government;

(d) whether this has reduced the disruption in power supply in various parts of the State; and

(e) if so, the extent to which normalcy of power supply in Andhra Pradesh has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) A Power purchase agreement has been signed between NTPC and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) on the 6th April, 1998 envisaging supply of 425 MW of power from Talcher Super Thermal Power Project Stage II (4 x 500 MW) proposed to be set up by NTPC in the State of Orissa in the 10th Plan.

However, an allocation of 150 MW of power has been made to APSEB from the existing stations of NTPC located in the Eastern Region. APSEB received about 122 Million Units of energy from the Central Stations of Eastern Region during April 1998 which helped in reducing the shortage of power in Andhra Pradesh.

Mitigating losses caused by Cyclones

754. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 176 cyclones struck the country since 1891;

(b) if so, whether nearly 60 cyclones out of these had struck the A.P. Coast; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures being taken/ contemplated to mitigate the damages of this natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) A total of 311 Cyclones Storms crossed Indian Coasts from 1891 till date.

(b) 67 Cyclones struck Andhra Pradesh Coast during the above period.

(c) Government are aware that Andhra Pradesh coast is vulnerable to the cyclones. Therefore, a Cyclone Warning Centre has been functioning at Visakhapatnam since 1973. The Andhra Pradesh Coast is covered with two high power Cyclone Detection Radars exclusively to monitor cyclones: one at Machilipatnam and other at Visakhapatnam. The India Meteorological Department remains in close touch with the State Government authorities and other agencies and the warnings are transmitted through print and electronic media. In addition, help of other communication channels such as Police Wireless is taken to ensure that the warnings reach the designated users in time. The Cyclone Warning messages are disseminated in local languages directly to the people living in the areas likely to be affected by cyclone through INSAT based Cyclone Warning Dissemination System (CWDS). Andhra Pradesh coast is covered by 82 CWDS.